

Phase 1 Guidance

Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Guidance for Parks and Open Spaces

During Phase 1, the public and businesses will be required to adopt new behaviors and rigorous safeguards to reduce risk for all. This guidance is intended for the public and those who operate parks and open spaces during Phase 1.

The following measures should be implemented at parks and open spaces to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. For additional information, visit coronavirus.dc.gov/phaseone.

The following are open with safeguards:

- Parks, walking paths, fields, cemeteries, and waterways;
- Dog parks;
- Golf courses (not club houses), tennis courts, and tracks;
- No-to-low-contact community sports (like tennis), training, and games;
- Plazas remain open with safeguards for personal fitness and exercise activities; and
- Public events of up to 10 people with social distancing

Guidelines for the General Public

Practice Everyday Prevention Measures

- Stay at home if you are sick or if you were recently exposed to someone with fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or positive for COVID-19.
- Avoid close contact with others who are not members of your household.
 - Stay at least 6 feet from other people.
 - Do not go to crowded places and avoid mass gatherings.
 - Avoid gathering with others outside of your household.
- Wear a cloth face covering when around other people in a public space. A cloth face covering is not a substitute for physical distancing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, after putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Bring hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to use if soap and water are not available.
- Bring your own water to minimize touching water fountains.

Guidelines for Park or Facility Administrators

Discourage Close Contact and Reduce Touchpoints

- Post posters and signs throughout the space to:
 - Remind visitors to socially distance by maintaining at least 6 feet between individuals in all areas of the space.
 - Remind visitors not to gather in groups of larger than 10 people.
 - Remind visitors that **playgrounds remain closed**.
 - Provide visual cues to allow for crowd control and appropriate spacing to avoid congregating of individuals in payment or check-in terminals.

- Monitor areas where people are likely to gather and consider temporary closure to support social distancing practices.
- Limit public gatherings to 10 people. For any public events with 10 people or less, make sure that social distancing is possible.
- Reinforce that medium-to-high contact sports remain closed.
- Shared spaces (e.g. locker rooms, club houses) other than restrooms should remain closed.
- Have patrons use every other stall for driving ranges at golf courses.
- Use contactless payment and waiver process. Prohibit the use of fingerprinting for verification of membership. Provide hand hygiene supplies, such as alcohol-based hand sanitizers, at payment or check-in terminals.

Screen and Monitor for Symptoms

- Use health screenings (e.g., symptom questionnaires) for staff daily prior to beginning work.
- If an employee falls ill or begins to exhibit symptoms compatible with COVID-19, they should immediately stop working, put on a cloth face covering (if they are not already wearing one), report these symptoms to a manager, and be sent home from work with instructions to contact a medical provider for further evaluation.

Clean and Disinfect

- Clean and disinfect the facility in accordance with [CDC guidelines](#), and keep products away from children. For more information about disinfectants that are effective against the virus that causes COVID-19, see the CDC website [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html).
- Outdoor areas generally require normal routine cleaning and do **not** require disinfection (e.g., spraying disinfectant on sidewalks and in parks.) You should maintain existing cleaning and hygiene practices for outdoor areas.
- Restrooms should:
 - Remain open with operational and functional toilets, and regularly stocked supplies for handwashing, including soap and materials for drying hands.
 - Be cleaned and disinfected daily, or more often if possible (especially high-touch surface areas such as faucets, toilets, doorknobs, and light switches).
- Take steps to ensure all water systems and features (e.g., drinking fountains, decorative fountains) are [safe to use](#) after a prolonged facility shutdown. Drinking fountains should be cleaned and disinfected but encourage visitors to bring their own water to minimize touching water fountains after a prolonged facility shutdown.